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ed peptide encoded by an operon, where
group consisting of *tatA*, *tatB*, *tatC*, *tatE*,
, and *msl* to *msl6*, obtainable from *E.*
acterium, wherein said homologue has at
el, or a functional fragment thereof.

1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103	2104	2105	2106	2107	2108	2109	2110	2111	2112	2113	2114	2115	2116	2117	2118	2119	2120	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131	2132	2133	2134	2135	2136	2137	2138	2139	2140	2141	2142	2143	2144	2145	2146	2147	2148	2149	2150	2151	2152	2153	2154	2155	2156	2157	2158	2159	2160	2161	2162	2163	2164	2165	2166	2167	2168	2169	2170	2171	2172	2173	2174	2175	2176	2177	2178	2179	2180	2181	2182	2183	2184	2185	2186	2187	2188	2189	2190	2191	2192	2193	2194	2195	2196	2197	2198	2199	2200	2201	2202	2203	2204	2205	2206	2207	2208	2209	2210	2211	2212	2213	2214	2215	2216	2217	2218	2219	2220	2221	2222	2223	2224	2225	2226	2227	2228	2229	2230	2231	2232	2233	2234	2235	2236	2237	2238	2239	2240	2241	2242	2243	2244	2245	2246	2247	2248	2249	2250	2251	2252	2253	2254	2255	2256	2257	2258	2259	2260	2261	2262	2263	2264	2265	2266	2267	2268	2269	2270	2271	2272	2273	2274	2275	2276	2277	2278	2279	2280	2281	2282	2283	2284	2285	2286	2287	2288	2289	2290	2291	2292	2293	2294	2295	2296	2297	2298	2299	2300	2301	2302	2303	2304	2305	2306	2307	2308	2309	2310	2311	2312	2313	2314	2315	2316	2317	2318	2319	2320	2321	2322	2323	2324	2325	2326	2327	2328	2329	2330	2331	2332	2333	2334	2335	2336	2337	2338	2339	2340	2341	2342	2343	2344	2345	2346	2347	2348	2349	2350	2351	2352	2353	2354	2355	2356	2357	2358</
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The isolated peptide, according to claim 1, comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS. 2, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 18, 19, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, 29, 31, 32 and 35-48.

An isolated polynucleotide which comprises a gene selected from the group consisting of *tatA*, *tatB*, *tatC*, *tatE*, *mdoG*, *creC*, *recG*, *yggN*, *eck1*, *iroD*, *iroC*, *iroE*, *mta2*, and *msl* to *msl6*, obtainable from *E. coli* K1, or a homologue thereof in a Gram-negative bacterium, wherein said homologue has at least 30% homology at the amino acid or nucleotide level, or a functional fragment thereof.

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A host transformed to express a peptide encoded by an operon, wherein said operon comprises a gene selected from the group consisting of *tatA*, *tatB*, *tatC*, *tatE*, *mdoG*, *creC*, *recG*, *yggN*, *eck1*, *iroD*, *iroC*, *iroE*, *mtl2*, and *msl* to *msl16*, obtainable from *E. coli* K1, or a

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homologue thereof in a Gram-negative bacterium, wherein said homologue has at least 30% homology at the amino acid or nucleotide level, or a functional fragment thereof.

Claim 5 (amended):

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A vaccine comprising a peptide, or the means for its expression, wherein said peptide is encoded by an operon, wherein said operon comprises a gene selected from the group consisting of *tatA*, *tatB*, *tatC*, *tatE*, *mdoG*, *creC*, *recG*, *yggN*, *eck1*, *iroD*, *iroC*, *iroE*, *mtd2*, and *msl* to *msl6*, obtainable from *E. coli* K1, or a homologue thereof in a Gram-negative bacterium, wherein said homologue has at least 30% homology at the amino acid or nucleotide level, or a functional fragment thereof.

Claim 6 (amended):

A vaccine comprising a microorganism having a virulence gene mutation, wherein the gene is selected from the group consisting of *tatA*, *tatB*, *tatC*, *tatE*, *mdoG*, *creC*, *recG*, *yggN*, *eck1*, *iroD*, *iroC*, *iroE*, *mtd2*, and *msl* to *msl6*, obtainable from *E. coli* K1, or a homologue thereof in a Gram-negative bacterium, wherein said homologue has at least 30% homology at the amino acid or nucleotide level, or a functional fragment thereof.

Claim 7 (amended):

The vaccine, according to claim 6, wherein said virulence gene mutation comprises a virulence gene deletion in two genes, wherein one gene encodes *tatA* and the other encodes *tatE*.

Claim 8 (amended):

The vaccine, according to claim 6, wherein the gene lies within a pathogenicity island.

Claim 9 (amended):

A method for screening potential drugs, or for the detection of virulence, wherein said method utilizes a peptide encoded by an operon, wherein said operon comprises a gene selected from the group consisting of *tatA*, *tatB*, *tatC*, *tatE*, *mdoG*, *creC*, *recG*, *yggN*, *eck1*, *iroD*, *iroC*, *iroE*, *mtd2*, and *msl* to *ms16*, obtainable from *E. coli* K1, or a homologue thereof in a Gram-negative bacterium, wherein said homologue has at least 30% homology at the amino acid or nucleotide level, or a functional fragment thereof.

Claim 10 (amended):

A method for treatment or prevention of a condition associated with infection by a Gram-negative bacterium, said method comprising administering [a vaccine] to a person or animal in need thereof, wherein said vaccine comprises a peptide, or a host transformed to express said peptide, wherein said peptide is encoded by an operon comprising a gene selected from the group consisting of *tatA*, *tatB*, *tatC*, *tatE*, *mdoG*, *creC*, *recG*, *yggN*, *eck1*, *iroD*, *iroC*, *iroE*, *mtd2*, and *msl* to *ms16*, obtainable from *E. coli* K1, or a homologue thereof in a Gram-negative bacterium, wherein said homologue has at least 30% homology at the amino acid or nucleotide level, or a functional fragment thereof.

Claim 11 (amended):

The method, according to claim 10, wherein the bacterium is *E. coli*.

Please add the following new claims:

12. The polynucleotide, according to claim 3, wherein said gene encodes a peptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS. 2, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 18, 19, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, 29, 31, 32 and 35-48.

13. The host, according to claim 4, wherein said peptide comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS. 2, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 18, 19, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, 29, 31, 32 and 35-48.

14. The vaccine, according to claim 5, wherein said peptide comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS. 2, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 18, 19, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, 29, 31, 32 and 35-48.

15. The vaccine, according to claim 6, wherein said peptide comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS. 2, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 18, 19, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, 29, 31, 32 and 35-48.

16. The vaccine, according to claim 15, wherein said virulence gene mutation comprises a virulence gene deletion in two genes, wherein one gene encodes *tatA* and the other encodes *tatE*.

17. The vaccine, according to claim 15, wherein the gene lies within a pathogenicity island.

18. The method, according to claim 9, wherein said peptide comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS. 2, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 18, 19, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, 29, 31, 32 and 35-48.

19. The method, according to claim 9, wherein said peptide comprises an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO. 33.

20. The method, according to claim 10, wherein said peptide comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS. 2, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 18, 19, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, 29, 31, 32 and 35-48.

21. The method, according to claim 20, wherein the bacterium is *E. coli*.

22. A method for treatment or prevention of a condition associated with infection by a Gram-negative bacterium, said method comprising administering a nucleotide to a person or animal in need thereof, wherein said nucleotide comprises an operon including a gene selected from the group consisting of *tatA*, *tatB*, *tatC*, *tatE*, *mdoG*, *creC*, *recG*, *yggN*, *eck1*, *iroD*, *iroC*, *iroE*, *mtd2*, and *msl* to *msl6*, obtainable from *E. coli* K1, or a homologue thereof in a Gram-negative bacterium, wherein said homologue has at least 30% homology at the amino acid or nucleotide level, or a functional fragment thereof.